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A photograph of a man and a woman in an orchard. The man, wearing a patterned shirt and blue pants, is reaching up to pick an apple from a tree. The woman, wearing a red shirt and blue pants, is standing next to him, also looking up at the tree. The orchard is filled with green trees and red apples. The ground is covered in grass and fallen apples.

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First Selectman's Corner

Dear Essex Friends & Neighbors,

Happy New Year! I'd like to thank the residents of Essex for your ongoing support. I love running the Town and am honored to continue to serve you as First Selectman. Our Town is fortunate to be on sound financial footing and we have built a core staff of professionals in every area of municipal operations and services. Those services are reinforced by Selectmen who are experienced municipal managers, Stacia Libby and Bruce Glowac. I will continue to work with them every day to make certain that Essex continues its positive momentum.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the new businesses and restaurants in Town and remind residents of the importance of supporting the small business sector. Their success is an important piece to the overall success of our community. The Essex Board of Trade and Ivoryton Alliance support many of the great events in our villages.

This year the Board of Finance dedicated the 2018-2019 Annual Report to Jacqueline Wolff. Jacqui was born in Norwalk and moved to Essex in the 1930s while in first grade, when her mother married Phil Greenburg who operated Greenburg's, the local department store, on

Main Street. Greenburg's was an anchor on Main Street for 50 years. Jacqui raised her own family in New York but returned to Town with her husband in 1981 to live in the house on Pratt Street where she grew up. Jacqui continues to be a great source of Town history and you can often find her on Main Street in Essex Village sharing her stories.



Norm Needleman
First Selectman

Preparation for the 2020-2021 annual budget is underway. Letters have gone out to Town schools, departments, boards and commissions and they will soon be compiling and submitting their requests. Our goal is to continue to meet your needs and expectations with the highest levels of service, while keeping expenditures low. The schedule of budget meetings has been posted on the Town website. Budget meetings are open to the public, and we hope you will attend. The Board of Finance has overall responsibility for the budget process and will submit a final budget for the approval
continued on page 5



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by residents at the Annual Town Meeting, scheduled for May 11, 2020 at 7:30 pm.

Congratulations to chairman Susan Abbot, co-chairman Stacy Abbott, and the entire Essex Sustainable Committee for their efforts toward achieving Bronze level certification in 2019 by Sustainable Connecticut. I'd also like to thank the Town Hall staff who provided support documentation where needed. We are only a couple of steps away from earning Sustainable Connecticut's Silver status which we are hopeful will happen this year.

Once again, I would like to remind residents of the importance of displaying visible house or mailbox numbers to be sure emergency responders can quickly locate you in the event of an emergency. Utility workers and mail delivery services also rely on visible home addresses to get their work done. One great way to make sure your house number is visible is with a reflective sign that can be easily seen from the street. Trees and shrubbery can cover the number so be sure to cut back any overgrowth that could block the view. In an emergency every minute counts.


We have had complaints about pet waste not being picked up along the sidewalks in Essex. We are a pet loving community


and want to ensure that residents and visitors can enjoy strolling along Essex sidewalks without fear of stepping in dog waste. Cleaning up after your pet is a common courtesy and I would like to thank those who are consistently picking up their dog's waste and disposing of it. Pet waste stations are in the Main Street Park, the Foot of Main, Grove Street Park, and Comstock Park, with more locations coming this spring.

As always, I encourage you to contribute to the safety of all drivers and pedestrians this winter season. Please wear seatbelts, drive safely, make sure your tires are in good shape, be alert to hazardous road conditions and drive within the speed limit. Prepare your homes and cars for the winter weather and be equipped for emergencies. Please clear your sidewalks of snow as soon as possible after storms so pedestrians can walk safely, clear of traffic. If you see something that needs to be repaired contact our Public Works Department at: 860-767-0715.

On behalf of all of us at Town Hall we wish you a very happy, healthy, and prosperous new year!

Norm Needleman,
First Selectman




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Assessor's Office

Tax Relief

PERSONS TOTALLY DISABLED OR OVER AGE 65

The Assessor's Office will begin accepting applications for the State of Connecticut Circuit Breaker program on February 1, 2020. In order to qualify for this program a person must be totally disabled or over age 65. In the case of a married couple, only one spouse needs to be over 65. The total household income, including Social Security benefits, must be less than \$45,100 for a married couple and less than \$37,000 for a single person.

Once qualified for the State Circuit Breaker Program, a person/couple is also eligible for the Town of Essex matching benefit.

The amount of tax relief is a sliding scale based on the total income. For example, if a married couple had a total income of \$20,000 for calendar year 2019, they may qualify for assistance from the State of up to \$1,000. The \$1,000 would be taken off their tax bill and the Town would match that benefit up to 100%,

depending on age and years of residency. In this example, the tax bill could be reduced by as much as \$2,000.

If you, or someone you know, might be eligible for this benefit, please have them come to the Assessor's Office at Town Hall with their 2019 SSA 1099, and proof of any income earned in calendar year 2019 or a copy of the 2019 tax return prior to May 15, 2020.

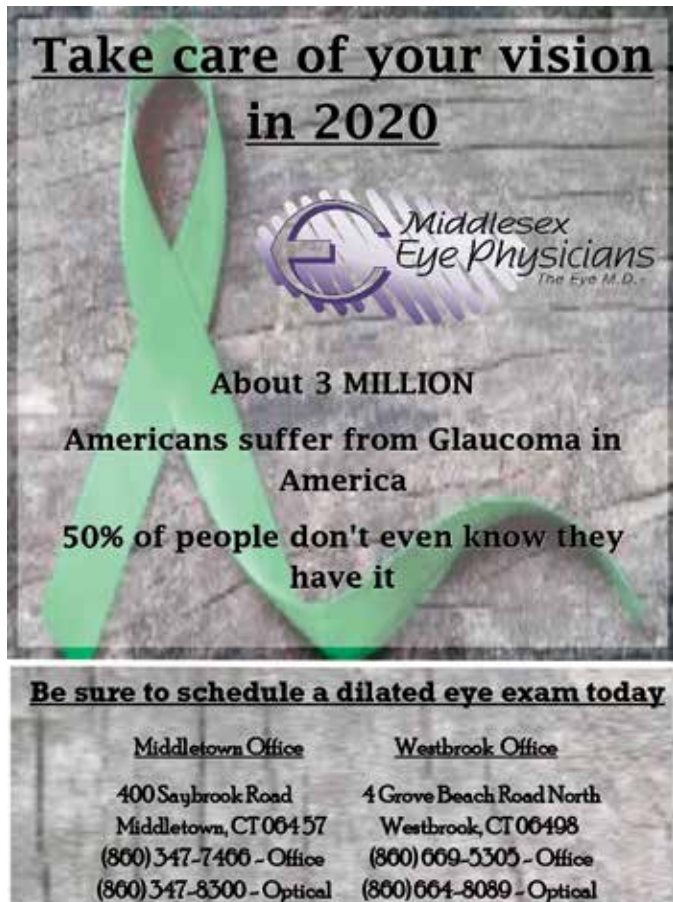
We are looking forward to the opportunity to assist you. Please call us at: 860.767.4340 ext. 123 or email us with any questions.

Jessica Sypher, CCMA II, Assessor
jsypher@essexct.gov

Betsy D'Amico, Assistant to the Assessor
bdamico@essexct.gov

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www.essexct.gov

We hope you will find our website to be a useful tool to find updated information and explore our wonderful community.



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Sustainable Essex



In December, Sustainable Connecticut awarded the Town of Essex Bronze-level certification for its high standards in a broad range of sustainable actions. The Sustainable Connecticut initiative promotes sustainability practices that aim to ensure the health and wellbeing of current and future town residents, while respecting the finite capacity of the town's natural environment.

Essex is one of the 32 towns in the state that met the criteria to qualify for certification for Sustainable Connecticut, which is managed under the leadership of the Institute for Sustainable Energy at Eastern Connecticut State University. Currently, 58 other towns in the state are working toward certification.

Sustainable Connecticut determined that the Town of Essex demonstrated achievements in nine action areas, including:

- Thriving Local Economies,
- Well-Stewarded Land and Natural Resources,
- Vibrant and Creative Cultural Ecosystems,
- Dynamic and Resilient Planning,
- Clean and Diverse Transportation Systems and Choices,
- Efficient Physical Infrastructure and Operations,
- Strategic and Inclusive Public Services,
- Healthy, Efficient and Diverse Housing,
- Inclusive and Equitable Community Impacts.

“Essex is a wonderful place to live and we want to ensure that it remains that way,” said Susan Abbot, co-chair of the Sustainable Essex Committee that coordinates the town's efforts toward sustainability. “Our committee is dedicated to ensuring that the environmental integrity of Essex is maintained for future residents and that we keep our watershed clean and the town vibrant and attractive for its residents and visitors.”

The Sustainable Essex Committee has plans in 2020 to host a series of speakers at the Essex Library to address sustainability issues such as waste management and environmental health. Follow us at://sustainableessex.com/.

INTERESTED IN JOINING?

Contact Betsy D'Amico (Essex Town Hall), 860-767-4340 x 123. Meetings: 7:00 pm, 4th Tuesday of the month at River COG, 145 Old Dennison Road, Essex. Visitors welcome.

The Essex Board of Trade Announces Leadership Change for 2020

The Essex Board of Trade (EBOT) is delighted to welcome its new President: Chef Colt Taylor, owner of Los Charros Cantina and The Essex restaurants, on Main Street, Centerbrook. Colt was voted into office at December's full board meeting after an enthusiastic and thoughtfully researched presentation regarding his vision for Essex, which aligns perfectly with the EBOT mission - promote “Experience Essex” by capitalizing on the unique business, entertainment and historic attributes of our three villages, Essex, Centerbrook and Ivoryton.



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Colt Taylor enthusiastic for his fresh catch!

Colt says, "I'm thrilled to represent Essex! As someone who grew up here and loves the community, it's an honor to give back. I look forward to working toward an Essex experience that capitalizes on the vitality of our three villages to collectively deliver enjoyment and fulfillment for both residents and visitors."

Colt's expansive culinary journey began in high school while he worked at Saybrook Fish House and Dock & Dine. He went on to graduate from the Culinary Institute of America, traveled Europe, and worked as a chef in New York City, Miami, and Los Angeles. Colt cultivated his passion for global flavors and classic techniques working at Le Bernardin, Gotham, and Babo prior to bringing his talent and experience to the helm of One if by Land Two if by Sea in Manhattan. There, he was awarded a Michelin star in 2014.

Passing the baton to Colt is Amy Cameron, owner of the women's division of J. Alden Clothiers on Main Street, Essex, who devoted herself to leading the organization for three years. Amy will remain on the board where she will continue to advocate for "Experience Essex." As Amy always says, "It takes three villages - Essex, Centerbrook and Ivoryton - to create a true Essex Experience."

Essex Community Fund

3RD ANNUAL CHEERS FOR CHARITY

Sold out in both 2018 and 2019, we are excited to announce our 3rd Annual Cheers for Charity on March 21st. Held at the historic Essex Steam Train in Centerbrook from 1:00 - 4:00 pm, there will be over 4,000 square feet dedicated to this special afternoon event of beer tasting from a wide variety of small and craft breweries. Special VIP access begins at 12:00 pm.

Tickets on sale now at: www.eventbrite.com/e/3rd-annual-cheers-for-charity-to-benefit-the-essex-community-fund-tickets-85910050273.

continued on page 10

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Essex Community Fund... continued from page 9

2019-2020 FUEL ASSISTANCE CHALLENGE UNDERWAY

The Fuel Assistance Program (FAP) is an on-going program available to residents who meet the criteria and provides a one-time fuel drop valued at \$400. ECF brought awareness to the situation by establishing a matching gift challenge. Members of St. John's Episcopal Church in Essex and friends and family of Peter Berrie answered our call in the past.

Please consider helping our neighbors and joining this year's Challenge. Donations can be mailed to the Essex Community Fund with a note that it is for FAP. Thank you in advance for helping us to keep our neighbors warm and to Maryellen Barnes for administering this important program.

STUFF-A-CRUISER

Thank you to all who contributed to our two Stuff-A-Cruiser events with the Essex Police Department. We collected almost a ton (2,000 pounds) of food for the Shoreline Soup Kitchen & Pantries in Old Saybrook thanks to your generosity.

CONSIDER BECOMING A VOLUNTEER

Volunteering with ECF is a great way to learn more about your community's needs and how you can help improve it for you, your family, your neighbors, and even future generations; plus, it's a great way to give back to your community. ECF has many opportunities to volunteer. Please contact us to learn more; we welcome your time and talent. For more information visit: www.essexcommunityfund.org.



Welcome to Essex

Essex consists of three unique villages and is ideally located on the Connecticut River a few short miles from Long Island Sound. Well-known for its beautiful landscapes, majestic trees and gardens, fascinating architecture, and cultural and historical attractions, we are a boating and sailing destination as well. Essex is famous for hosting a multitude of parades throughout the year and offers an outstanding culinary and shopping experience to our residents and visitors. Come experience, explore and enjoy the small-town enchantment of Essex, Connecticut.

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Essex Garden Club Brings Holiday Spirit to Essex



In preparation for the holiday season, members of the Essex Garden Club decorated merchant window boxes and tubs in the village of Essex. Using a variety of evergreen cuttings from members and other donors from the community, the Essex Garden Club helped the town put on a festive face for the Trees in the Rigging and the Holiday Stroll.



From left to right: Ann Elich, Elise Helmecki, Suzanne Tweed and Sandy Meister at the Rotary.



From left to right: Merry Coleman, Sally Worm, Barbara Campbell and Kathy Bolanowski at the Griswold Inn.

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FISH was founded locally in 1970 to provide free rides to medical appointments for residents of Essex, Deep River and Chester. The officers for 2019 and into 2020 are: Henry May, President; Stuart Warner, Vice President; Mary Samburg, Secretary; Barbara Ryan, Treasurer; Dana Hill, Driver Recruitment; Leo Zavatone and Jack Frost, Directors. Dispatchers are John Heiser and Tony Carrano.

Residents of our three towns wanting rides and having no other means of transportation may call 860-388-2693 up to noon the day before their appointment

(Friday noon for a Monday ride) to schedule a ride for the following day. The destinations are within the triangle of Middletown to the north, Guilford to the west and New London to the east.

In the first 11 months of 2019, FISH drivers provided a total of 1,050 free rides of

which 400 or 38% were for Essex residents. This total is a 20% increase over the same 11-month period in 2018. Of our 60 volunteer drivers, 33 are Essex residents.

The modest FISH budget is funded by grants from the Essex Community Fund, the Community Foundation of Middlesex

County, the Essex Rotary Club, the Essex Savings Bank, the Deep River Community Health Committee, the Town of Chester, the Town of Essex, Smith Brothers Insurance and other organizations, as well as by contributions from our drivers, riders and friends.

Henry May, Driver and President

Get Pumped this year!

Exercise is important to stay healthy and stay in shape, so plan your routine to take good care of yourself and your family!



While you're at it, take care of that septic system of yours too. It is out of sight and out of mind but needs maintenance to keep performing as it should. The Essex Wastewater Management Ordinance requires you to pump your tank at least every 5 years. Your local pumper can let you know if a problem is developing and fix it before it gets worse.

Essex Health Department

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Finding Lung Cancer

While lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States, it's important to understand that it can be treated successfully when found early.

Lung cancer often has no symptoms, making it difficult for people to realize that something is wrong. Most often, early stage lung cancer can be best detected through lung screenings.

Lung screenings are ordered by physicians and recommended for those aged 55 to 80 who have a 30-pack year history of smoking. You must also be a smoker or former smoker who quit within the past 15 years and not be exhibiting lung cancer symptoms.

Middlesex Health is a Lung Cancer Screening Center of Excellence. This means that Middlesex demonstrates responsible, high-quality screening practices, and it ensures that the low-dose CT scans used to screen for lung cancer are carried out safely, efficiently and equitably.

Early lung cancer can also be detected through "incidental findings," meaning that a suspicious lesion was detected during the reading of a diagnostic test that a patient was having for another medical issue. It is critically important that lesions, regardless of how they are detected, are followed up on as recommended.

The Total Lung Care Center, part of Middlesex Health Cancer Center, works with primary care physicians, radiologists and nurse navigators to coordinate expedited care plans. The goal is to always get you an appointment with a pulmonologist as soon as possible.

A timely diagnosis is very important because it allows lung cancer to be treated at an earlier stage. If your lesion is determined to be cancerous, you may need additional care and treatment. The Total Lung Care Center's nurse navigator will guide and support you through all aspects of lung cancer care—from diagnosis to survivorship.

For more information, visit MiddlesexHealth.org/lung.

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Valerie & Thomas Izzo	11 Curiosity Lane	Essex
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Bruce Feller & Lydia Conca	85 River Road, Unit D-4	Essex
Richard A. Moore	27 Gates Road	Essex
Chris & Kristen Vollaro	15 Westwoods Road	Ivoryton
Gerard & Fleur Hahne Lawrence	85 River Road, Unit L-3	Essex
Margaret M. Cunningham	7 Cove Hill Road	Essex
Eileen Kirchoff	1 Stanford Hill Road	Essex
William & Meaghan Nelson III	7 Windermere Way	Ivoryton
Janice M. Pettersson	55 Deep River Road	Centerbrook
Eric & Melinda Cruanes	3 Windswept Ridge Road	Ivoryton
Bryan & Deborah Sierpinski	11 Winthrop Hill Road	Ivoryton
Michael Kentner	126 Mares Hill Rd.	Ivoryton
Janelle Schmittberger	15 Sunset Terr., Unit 4	Essex
Louis & Carol Bassett	14 Essex Glen Dr., Unit 2	Essex
Jared & Leslie Novinski	25 New City Street	Essex
George & Lynn Prouty III	6 Fife Court	Ivoryton
Linda March & Carol Gradsen	65 Main St., Unit 19	Ivoryton

LOSS OF RESIDENTS & FRIENDS

SEPTEMBER	Isabel C. Leach	Sally Newell
Sandra M. Zanni	Pearl T. P. Gilmour	
Sarah Carnabuci	Lillian S. Mosa	DECEMBER
Jacqueline G. Gossage	William A. Manning	Angela B. Smith
Richard F. Yindra	Orazio Roberto	Helen Z. MacWhinney
Franklin Hutchinson, IV		Lynnetta N. Thornwall
	NOVEMBER	Jerome L. Wilson
OCTOBER	Paula M. Doak	Respectfully submitted,
Carl H. Zinn, Jr.	Toby A. Masters	Yvonne Roziak
Emma G. Spann	Carolyn A. Young	Assistant Town Clerk



WHAT IS 2-1-1?

It is Connecticut's free and confidential information and referral service. By calling 2-1-1, a toll-free number throughout CT, callers can reach knowledgeable, multilingual staff and get information, referrals or seek help in a crisis. 2-1-1 operates 24 hours-a-day, every day of the year. TDD access is available.

Visit the website for more information at: <http://www.211.org/#>



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THE LANDFILL AND RECYCLING CENTER
is open Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

SELECTMEN'S OFFICE		
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ESSEX POLICE		
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Christopher McCarthy		cmccarthy@essexct.gov
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Yvonne Roziak, Assistant	x128	yroziak@essexct.gov
TOWN HALL OPERATIONS		
Maintenance	x136	maintenance@essexct.gov
Andrew Harrington	x136	aharrington@essexct.gov
ZONING ENFORCEMENT		
Joe Budrow, Enforcement Agent	x115	jbudrow@essexct.gov
Kerry Berardinelli	x119	kberardinelli@essexct.gov

www.essexct.gov

Essex Park & Recreation Department

MISSION STATEMENT

Creating Community through People, Parks and Programs!

ESSEX GO BRAGH IRISH PARADE

Park and Recreation is planning the 9th Annual Essex Go Bragh Irish Parade & Festival, to be held March 21, 2020. The event will feature an Irish-themed parade down Main Street into the heart of Essex Village lead by Grand Marshal Robert Russo, recently retired Park and Recreation Commission Chairman. All Essex residents and community organizations are encouraged to get involved. Full event information will be posted on our Facebook page and website.

ESSEX EGGSTRAVAGANZA

Our annual egg hunt will be held on Friday, April 10, 2020, at 10:00 am, at Grove Street Park. The Eggstravaganza is open to children birth to second grade. Join the Easter Bunny for story time at Essex Town hall at 9:00 am, and plan to arrive for the egg hunt 15 minutes early as we will begin at 10:00 am sharp.

Park & Recreation Programs

Park and Recreation always has a great offering of recreation programs to choose from. Our Winter Programming is available online and registration is open.



Adult Yoga

Starting Monday, Feb. 12

Aspiring Engineering - Skyscrapers

One Day Session Feb. 19

Aspiring Engineering - Roller Coasters

One Day Session Feb. 26

Aspiring Engineering - Conveyor Belt Contraptions

One Day Session March 23

Aspiring Engineering - Battlebots

One Day Session March 30

Let's Dance

Starting Tuesday, Feb. 25

Zumba® Kids

Starting

Wednesday, Feb. 26

STAY TUNED FOR OUR 2020 SPRING/SUMMER BROCHURE IN MARCH!

Returning favorites will include: outdoor yoga, boating certification course; running rams, tennis, cooking, dodgeball, basketball, summer camp and summer concerts!

PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION

The Park and Recreation Commission welcome the opportunity to help you with issues involving the Department and our Community. The public is invited to attend our meetings, held 6 times per year at 6:00 pm at the Town Hall. See our calendar available online at: www.essexct.gov.

Our members include:

Brette Fitton - Chair

John Bean

Tony Mosa

Department Staff

Director

Recreation Aide

Dan Needleman

Ginny Willets

Mary Ellen Barnes,
CPRP 767-4340 x110
mbarnes@essexct.gov

Tim LaChance
767-4340 x148
tlachance@essexct.gov



CONTACT US!

We welcome hearing from you on our programs, parks, and the operations of our department. Remember to visit our website for updated announcements, program information, online registration and to view our brochure. Go to the Town website at: www.essexct.gov and "Like" us on Facebook!

THE BENEFITS OF PARKS & RECREATION

Build family unity

Feel great

Lose weight

Diminish chance of disease

Reduce stress

Provide safe places to play

Generate revenue

Lower healthcare costs

Meet friends

Educate children and adults

Relax

Keep businesses from leaving

Elevate personal growth

Strengthen neighborhood involvement

Boost local economy

Increase property value

Preserve plant and animal wildlife

Clean air and water

Teach vital life skills

Provide space to enjoy nature

A Round of Applause *and* Many Thanks to You.



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FOUNDATION
of Middlesex County

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www.MiddlesexCountyCF.org

During this season of giving, we give our thanks to you, our neighbors and friends. Thank you for your generosity of time, talent, and resources to support a passion or area of interest that improves the quality of life for all.

Thanks to you, we are making a real difference. With your support, we work in partnership with our local nonprofits and provide grants to help fund their amazing programs and services – all for a better today *and* a better tomorrow.

Thanks to you, by combining resources, we do make even the smallest gift have a big impact - through charitable funds that support animal welfare, arts and culture, health and social services, history, education, the environment, civic improvements, recreation, and economic security and opportunity.

Thanks to you, great things happen every day in your community.

We invite you to learn more by calling us or visiting us online.

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Essex Historical Society Plans & Projects, 2020



We joke at Essex Historical Society (EHS) that we hibernate during the winter, while in reality we busy ourselves with plans and projects for 2020.

EHS prepares to launch the second phase of the Follow the Falls Project, a multi-year initiative with Essex Land Trust, focusing on the history and natural beauty of Essex's three villages tied together by the Falls River. In 2020, we will "Celebrate Centerbrook," Essex's oldest village, known for its varied industries and changing transportation network. We welcome back our marketing partner, Overabove, creating an e-magazine or online publication. We welcome new partner Centerbrook Architects as they develop a 'fly over map' of what this changing, busy village looked like in 1860 and 1910. Please save the date for our tented Follow the Falls Gala on June 7, right near the Great Falls!

EHS continues to improve the visitor experience at Pratt House, the town's only historic house museum. EHS installed a new energy-efficient heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) system with funding support. We received a \$4,800 grant from Avangrid via Southern Connecticut Gas under Connecticut's Neighborhood Assistance (NAA) Tax Credit Program, aimed at helping nonprofit community and neighborhood organizations across the state improve energy efficiency and reduce their energy costs. EHS deeply appreciates the help we received from the Town of Essex in shepherding our application.

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EHS President Hank McInerney and Director Melissa Josefiak (both center) receive a Neighborhood Assistance Grant from representatives from Avangrid (via Southern Connecticut Gas), Eileen Lopez-Cordone and Al Carbone.
Photo courtesy of Essex Historical Society.

EHS's programs and history projects are made possible through generous contributions from our members. You received our membership letter in January; would you please renew your membership in 2020 or join our growing team of members? Your support helps EHS support quality programming to Essex classrooms, history programs for adults and family-friendly community events, all of which are free or low-admission. For more information, please visit us at: www.essexhistory.org or call: 860-767-0681. Thank you!



Clerks from Prann's Store, Centerbrook, pause for a photo outside their Main Street establishment. Courtesy of Essex Historical Society.

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Ivoryton Library

In 1871, there was no Ivoryton yet. Our area was called West CentreBrook. So when our library began, it was as the CentreBrook Circulating Library. And if you do the math, you'll notice that we are approaching our 150th year. In May of 2020, we will begin a year of exciting activities that will focus on the longevity of our little library that has served our community since the 19th century. The planned activities and events will be announced during a Members Only event coming in February. If you are a member, look for your invitation soon.



Ivoryton Library Board of Trustees with members of the Ivoryton Congregational Church.

The Ivoryton Library was overwhelmed and humbled recently by the generosity of the Ivoryton Congregational Church when we learned that we were to be the recipient of two of the six funds established with the Church endowment. These funds will allow the library to assist in the church's mission to "continue to LIVE LOCAL and GIVE LOCAL - now and in the future." We thank the members of the Ivoryton Congregational Church for their confidence and trust.

We host drop-in storytimes on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am. On the second Wednesday of the month, Mr. Ken
continued on page 20

Treat yourself!

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Ivoryton Library... continued from page 19

brings his guitar and leads sing-alongs. For more music, join us on the third Thursday of the month through May when we welcome Music with Martha at 10:30 am.

And meet in the Childrens Room on

Thursday afternoons for LEGO building and storywriting with Story Visualizer, 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm.

Our Adult Craft Nights have begun again. Check our website for these occasional Wednesday evenings for adults-only and

learn a new craft technique. Is there something you'd like to teach? Let us know!

The Ivoryton Library can be reached at: 860-767-1252 or staff@ivorytonlibrary.org. Visit us at ivorytonlibrary.org or @ivorytonlibrary on social media.

Friends of the Essex Library

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE ESSEX LIBRARY!

We get to say it again—"oh what a night!"

The Friends Festival of Dinners was a smashing success raising money for the library! THANK YOU to everyone who made it a special night; hosts, guests, and the event committee. Also, a thank you to Carlson's Landing for the generous donation of "Dinner for Four." Deb Smith of the library and Rob Rabine of Carlson's Landing announced the winner.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE FRIENDS OF THE ESSEX LIBRARY?

On December 16 all of our backroom volunteers who spend countless hours during the year poring over donated items and



Backroom "Friends" Showing their Holiday Spirit.

helping with books sales, celebrated the end of a very successful 2019. At this party, which was a "thanks to our volunteers" party, our amazing volunteers brought in donated items such as pens, pencils, white-out, paper and index cards for the women at the York Correctional Facility in Niantic who are in a college level academic program.

Essex - Community Listings

HOUSES OF WORSHIP

All Saints Episcopal Church.....	(860) 767-1698
First Baptist Church.....	(860) 767-8623
First Congregational Church	(860) 767-8097
Ivoryton Congregational Church.....	(860) 767-1004
Our Lady of Sorrows Church	(860) 767-1284
St. John's Episcopal Church.....	(860) 767-8095
Trinity Lutheran Church	(860) 767-0228

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Ancient Order of Weeders.....	(860) 767-2700
Democratic Town Committee.....	(781) 483-2021
Community Foundation of Middlesex County	(860) 347-0025
Essex Board of Trade.....	(860) 767-3904
Essex Boy Scouts of America.....	(860) 304-9027
Essex Community Fund.....	(860) 304-2751
Essex Cub Scouts of America	(860) 790-0681
Essex Garden Club	(860) 388-7209
Essex Historical Society.....	(860) 767-0681

Essex Lion's Club.....	(860) 767-8072
Essex Land Trust.....	info@landtrust.org
Essex Little League.....	www.essexlittleleague.org
Essex Veterans Memorial Hall	(860) 767-8892
F.I.S.H.	(860) 388-2693
Ivoryton Company of Fifers & Drummers.....	(860) 767-2237
Ivoryton Village Alliance	info@ivorytonalliance.org
Lower Valley Visiting Nurses	(860) 767-0186
Republican Town Committee.....	(860) 262-0226
SCORE Mentors	(860) 388-9508
The Shoreline Soup Kitchens	(860) 388-1988
Tri-Town Youth Services Bureau	(860) 526-3600
9 Town Transit	(860) 510-0429

SCHOOLS

Essex Elementary School.....	(860) 767-8215
John Winthrop Middle School.....	(860) 526-9546
Superintendent.....	(860) 526-2417
Valley Regional High School.....	(860) 526-5328

The Friends of the Essex Library will have their Annual Spring Book Sale; a two-day event starting on Saturday, April 18, 2020 from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. Starting at 2:30 pm to close, books will sell for half price. The "Fill your Bag for \$5.00" sale will be on Monday, April 20, 2020 from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm. You are invited to bring your own tote or paper bag. If you don't have a bag, free paper bags will be provided.

SAVE THE DATE: TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2020...

It's a Bastille Day "Pique-nique" in Essex!

The Friends of the Essex Library are hosting a French Picnic ("pique-nique") in Grove Street Park from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm on Bastille Day, July 14, 2020.

A picnic basket dinner will be provided with BYOB. Sit at a picnic table or bring your own blanket for the grass to enjoy a relaxing fun-filled evening. This is a family celebration, benefitting the Essex Library. We will have music and dancing, if you like, along with wonderful French decorations and for a date night or evening fun for the family and/or friends. Park at the Town Hall or pull your 'decorated' wagon with whatever you wish to make this July summer evening one to remember!



Minae Lee, Artistic Director

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Stu Ingersoll Jazz Concert

MARCH 8 LINÜ Guitar Duo
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Fenton Brown Emerging Artists Concert

MARCH 29 BeethovenFest
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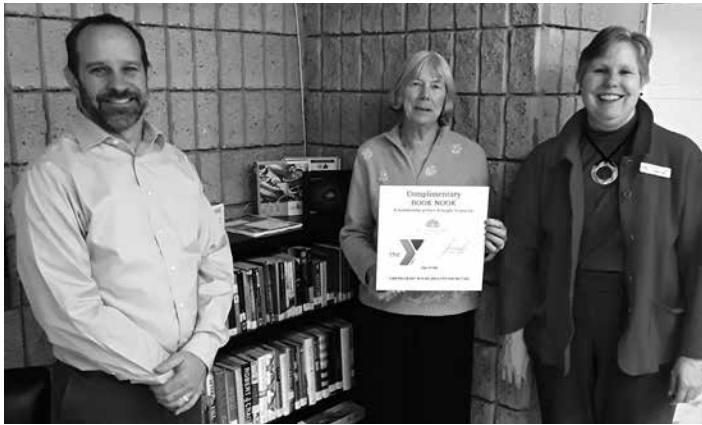
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News from the Library

Essex Library and the Friends of the Library partner with Valley Shore YMCA to distribute books into the community

Essex Library Association is delighted to spread books more widely into the community as part of its Book Nook project. A joint initiative with the Valley Shore YMCA and Friends of the Essex Library, the Book Nook at the Y provides gently used free books, puzzles, and games. Launching the project on December 9th, shown below from left to right, were: Chris Pallato (Executive Director/CEO, Valley Shore YMCA,) Peggy Tuttle (Friends of the Library) and Deborah Smith (Executive Director, Essex Library Association.)



ESSEX LIBRARY INVITES ALL AGES TO...

Take Your Child (and Bring Your Memories) to the Library on Saturday, February 1st

Each year, the Essex Library welcomes caregivers and children to enjoy the library together. The day is a celebration of the role libraries have in encouraging literacy and discovery for children and youth. This year, the library hosts the Mr. Gym Show at 11:00 am on Saturday, February 1st. The show is geared for children under 12, accompanied by a caregiver. The Friends of the Library will also be hosting a free children's book giveaway (donation jar available.) As part of the day's festivities, the library also invites patrons of all ages to "Bring Your Memories." Volunteer interviewers will be available from 10:00 am to 3:30 pm to record your childhood memories of visiting the library, in Essex or elsewhere. These oral histories will be added to the library's developing digital archive and will be available to the public. Participants will be asked to sign a waiver indicating the library can use the interview and are invited to pose for a photograph to accompany their story.

Upcoming Events

ALL EVENTS AT THE ESSEX LIBRARY UNLESS NOTED
Event listings also available online at: <https://www.your-essexlibrary.org/library-and-community-programs/>

Children's Events

PREDATORS AND PREY

- Live Animals with the Denison Nature Center

Tuesday, January 21, 2020 4:00 pm

FAN MAIL DAY:

Kate DiCamillo

Tuesday, February 4, 2020 4:00 pm

Adults & Teens

HOW TO RECOGNIZE AND AVOID A SCAM

with Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection Chief
Education and Outreach Officer, Catherine Blinder

Friday, January 24, 2020 11:00 am

BRING YOUR CHILD TO THE LIBRARY DAY!

The Mr. Gym Show

for children accompanied by a parent/caregiver

Saturday, February 1, 2020 11:00 am

Oral History interviews for adults:

tell us what visiting the library was like when you were a kid

Saturday, February 1, 2020 10:00 am - 3:30 pm

TRAIN YOUR DOG WITH PHIL THE DOG LISTENER

Saturday, February 22, 2020 1:30 pm

BIRDS, BUGS, AND FROGS:

The State of the Science Behind Reported Global Declines with
Conservation Biologist Jim Arrigoni

Thursday, February 20, 2020 7:00 pm

TRAILS OF THE ESSEX LAND TRUST

An illustrated talk by Jeff Croyle about the Essex Land
Trust's trails

Saturday February 29, 2020 4:00 pm

CELTIC MUSIC WITH JEFF SNOW

Thursday, March 12, 2020 7:00 pm

FILM SCREENING & LECTURE

Alice's Ordinary People

Wednesday, March 18, 2020 7:00 pm

Alice's Ordinary People is a documentary from Imagine Video about Alice Tregay, an unsung heroine of the Civil Rights Movement who practiced fearless activism for five decades. Her remarkable story of ordinary people effecting extraordinary change for human rights spans the historic period from the marches of Dr. King to the election of Barack Obama, and her great contribution in the field of politics is the thread which connects the two.

SOUL, STAX, & CIVIL RIGHTS

with **Fairfield University Music Professor, Brian Q. Torff**

Wednesday, March 25 6:00 pm

Professor of Music, composer and bassist Brian Q. Torff analyzes the tremendous impact of Soul music during the 1950s-70s, focusing on the legacy of Stax Records in Memphis. Torff's presentation will feature his photos and explanations of Southern blues and soul from church to recording studio, including the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis.

BET YOUR BOTTOM DOLLAR

The Psychology of Separating You from Your Money with psychologist Charles Zantor.

Saturday, April 4 4:00 pm

In observance of Money Smart Week, Zantor will talk about behavioral economics, discussing things like brand loyalty, going to the casino and shopping for sales. When we think of "economic theory," we mostly think big - supply and demand, inflation and recession, national debt and taxes. But what does all that have to do with how we make financial decisions in our day-to-day lives?

DEDICATION OF THE MILL POND FISH LADDER

with **Sally Harold, former Director River Restoration and Fish Passage at the Nature Conservancy, and Stephen Gephard, supervising fisheries biologist for the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.**

Saturday, April 25 3:00 pm
at CenterbrookArchitects

This event will offer an overview of the fish that are the focus of this multi-part project and what it takes to restore them to Connecticut waters. Speakers will offer a description of what it took to build two Centerbrook fishways-including background, design, construction and examples of other similar projects.

CONNECTICUT LIBRARY ASSOCIATION'S PASSPORT TO CONNECTICUT LIBRARIES 2020

April 1 - 30
Visit as many of Connecticut's libraries as you can during the

month of April and collect a stamp at each one! Essex Library is participating. More information to come at: <https://www.facebook.com/passporttoctlibraries/>

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY SPRING BOOK SALE

Saturday, April 18 & Monday, April 20, 2020

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

Monday, April 20 - Saturday, April 26, 2020
Stay tuned for more information on special activities at the library.

ONGOING EVENTS

Alzheimer's Care Giver's support group

1st Tuesdays of the month 5:30 pm

Bereavement Counseling and Support Group

1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month 2:00 pm

2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month 5:00 pm

Diamonds and Purls Knitting Group

Tuesdays 4:00 pm


Drop-in Bridge


Fridays 1:00 pm

continued on page 24



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Essex Library... continued from page 23

Book Discussion Groups

HISTORICAL FICTION BOOK GROUP 10:30 am
Tuesday, February 11: A Fall of Marigolds
by Susan Meissner
Tuesday, March 10: Merchant of Prato by Iris Origio
Tuesday, April 14: The Lost Girls of Paris by Pam Jenoff

AMERICAN HISTORY BOOK GROUP 5:00 pm
Thursday, March 19, 2020: The China Mirage: The Hidden
History of American disaster in Asia
by James Bradley

FIRST THURSDAYS BOOK CLUB 4:00 pm
February 6: Where the Crawdads Sing
by Delia Owens
March 5: Olive Kitteridge by Elizabeth Strout

April 2: The Nature of Life and Death:
Everybody Leaves a Trace
by Patricia Wiltshire

ESSEX MEADOWS BOOK CLUB 10:30 am
Meets at Essex Meadows
Wednesday, February 19: River of Doubt by Candice Millard
Wednesday, March 18: tentative selection is Resistance
Women by Jennifer Chiaverini
Wednesday, April 15: tentative selection is The Pioneers
by David McCullough

CLASSICS BOOK GROUP
Check calendar for meeting dates and book selections

The library will be closed: President's Day - Monday, February 17

Upcoming Essex Land Trust Events

Essex Land Trust welcomes everyone to attend any of its upcoming programs. For more details download our Calendar of Events brochure from our website at: www.essexlandtrust.org. All events are free.

WHAT IS THE BLUE PLAN?

Thursday, January 23, 7:00 pm (Snow date: Tuesday, January 28)
Essex Town Hall, 29 West Avenue

Christian Fox, the Coordinator for The Nature Conservancy -Connecticut's Long Island Sound Blue Plan Outreach, will make a presentation about The Blue Plan, reviewing the plan and the policies it contains. He will walk participants through the use of the online map viewer and states: "The Blue Plan will protect ecologically important areas and the existing water-dependent uses of Long Island Sound. The Plan provides information, guidance, and tools that regulators, project applicants, and the general public can use when planning for the Sound's future.

BEARS REVISITED

Tuesday, February 4, 7:00 pm (Snow date: Thursday, February 6)
Essex Town Hall, 29 West Avenue

Felicia Ortner of The Bear Reality, has been involved in bear research in Connecticut for over 25 years and will update us on the resurgence of bears in our area, their numbers and their habitats as well as discuss how we can co-exist with them.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE ESSEX LAND TRUST

Saturday, February 29, 4:00 pm
Essex Library, 33 West Avenue

Jeff Croyle recently joined the ELT Board of Directors as Chair of the Nominating Committee. He is Steward for Windswept Ridge, manages the land trust volunteers, and identifies potential Stewards. He will provide an overview of the Essex Land Trust's mission and accomplishments, its 2020 calendar of events and available volunteer opportunities. His presentation will highlight

ELT properties with a focus on its larger preserves. Co-sponsored with the Essex Library.

POLLINATORS

Monday, March 2, 2:00 pm
Essex Town Hall, 29 West Avenue

Nancy DeBrule-Clemete of Organic Natureworks Horticultural Services, specializes in organic gardening, landscape design, consultation and maintenance. She will speak about pollinators, their impact on our environment and their habitats. Co-sponsored with the Essex Garden Club.

THE LIVING LANDSCAPES - NATIVE PLANTINGS FOR BEAUTY, SUSTAINABILITY & HABITAT

Thursday, March 19, 7:00 pm
Essex Library, 33 West Avenue

Anne Penniman, Professional Landscape Architect, ASLA, is a registered landscape architect with over 30 years of experience in both public and private work. She will speak about native plant communities, individual local and native species as well as how to incorporate native plants into gardens and landscapes.

THE ESSEX LAND TRUST ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, April 16, 5:30 pm
Essex Meadows, 30 Bokum Road

Join us for ELT's festive cocktail party and annual meeting. Light food will be served. Tickets for the buffet (5:30 - 6:30 pm) will be available at the door. Find the ticket price on our website at: www.essexlandtrust.org. The business meeting and presentation that follow are free to all. Non-members welcome.

**RESTORING HISTORIC FISH RUNS
IN THE FALLS RIVER**

Saturday, April 25, 3:00 pm

**Centerbrook Architects - THE CUBE
67 Main Street, Centerbrook**

Steve Gephard of the CT DEEP, Fisheries Division and Sally Harold, formerly of The Nature Conservancy's CT Chapter, have partnered on fish passage restoration projects for nearly two decades.

Most recently, their efforts focused on the completion of two fishways in Centerbrook. Join us as Sally and Steve discuss why river restoration matters, which fish they are targeting and what has been accomplished.

It's springtime, so the fish should be running. Take a peek through the viewing window of the newest fishway at Centerbrook Architects on the Mill Pond Dam. Co-sponsored with the Essex Library.



Fishway installation at Centerbrook Architects dam.

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Ivoryton Playhouse 2020 Season



On March 18, 2020, the Ivoryton Playhouse opens its doors for a new season - a year full of exciting, affordable, professional theatre. From the First Family of Country to the First Lady of Mystery; from battles among the rose beds to

love that lasts forever, our 2020 Season has a little bit of everything and something extra! A great melting pot of a season in a theatre that feels like home

The season opens with a brand new show created especially for the Ivoryton Playhouse by Gerard Alessandrini - FORBIDDEN BROADWAY COMES TO IVORYTON (March 18 – April 5.) Broadway's greatest musical legends meet Broadway's wittiest satirist in this hilarious, loving and endlessly entertaining tribute to some of theatre's greatest stars.

F. Scott Fitzgerald's THE GREAT GATSBY (April 22 - May 10) is the defining novel of the Jazz Age and this beautifully crafted play by Simon Levy captures the breathtaking glamor and decadent excess of the 1920s. Come revisit Jay and Daisy and Nick as they struggle with love, obsession, greed and danger.

Gardens and cultures clash, turning friendly neighbors into feuding enemies in NATIVE GARDENS (May 27 – June 14.) This hilarious new comedy of good intentions and bad manners is one of the most produced plays of the past year.

Get ready to dance like you've never danced before!

FLASHDANCE: THE MUSICAL (June 24 – July 26) tells the inspiring story of Alex, a welder by day and a "flash-dancer" by night, who dreams of becoming a professional dancer. Based on the Paramount Pictures film, FLASHDANCE boasts an iconic score and pop hits including "Maniac," "Gloria," "I Love Rock 'n Roll" and the sensational title track, "What a Feeling!"

The Man in Black is Back!

From the songbook of Johnny Cash, RING OF FIRE - The Music of Johnny Cash (August 5 - 30) is a unique musical about love and faith, struggle and success, rowdiness and redemption, and the healing power of home and family. More than two dozen classic hits - including "I Walk the Line," "A Boy Named Sue,"

Did You Know?

Publisher's Note: The year 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the adoption of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution. Our "The Last Word" feature found on page 38 of this Essex Events Magazine provides for a commemoration of this milestone and honors the commitment of so many who fought painstakingly

over so many decades for women's right to vote. Below, we have compiled a few fun facts regarding women's suffrage.

While voting rights could no longer be denied because of race or sex, after the 15th and 19th Amendments, many voters still faced ballot restrictions, including

registration rules, literacy tests, poll taxes, and moral residency requirements.

Source: https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education/Programs/19th-amendment-centennial/fun-facts/

The official colors of the formal woman
continued on page 28



"Folsom Prison Blues," and the title tune - are performed by a multi-talented cast.

GHOST THE MUSICAL (September 16 - October 11) is a romantic stage adaptation of a modern classic film, GHOST THE MUSICAL follows Sam and Molly, a young couple whose connection takes a shocking turn after Sam's untimely death. Trapped between two worlds, Sam refuses to leave Molly when he learns that she is in grave danger. A moving, heartfelt love story with a beautiful score, including "Unchained Melody," that makes you want to hold on to your loved ones a just little bit tighter.

Spend Halloween with Agatha Christie, the Mistress of Mystery, and her most popular creation, THE MOUSETRAP (October 28 - November 15.) When a group of strangers are trapped together at a manor house during a snow storm, they soon discover that one of them is a murderer! Is it the newlyweds whose rampant suspicions nearly wreck their marriage? Maybe it's the spinster with the curious background. It could be the architect, the retired Army Major or maybe the odd man who claims his car overturned in a snow drift! We'll never tell...

Join us in 2020 for some of the most exciting, entertaining and affordable theatre on the shoreline! Visit us at: www.ivorytonplayhouse.org or call: 860-767-7318 for the latest ticket information.

campaign for bully-free communities

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STICK TO KINDNESS.



Students interact with campaign spokesman Donny Marshall at the Rally for Bully-Free Communities.

STAND TOGETHER FOR POSITIVE CHANGE.

Did you know that one out of seven students are either a bully or a victim of bullying? And that an estimated 160,000 children miss school each day for fear of intimidation or attack? Mean-spirited behavior is everywhere - the playground, school hallways, the workplace, and more often, online. It is up to each and every one of us to put an end to bullying by learning more about the issues, and the available resources for empowering individuals to stand up for themselves and others.

Help make Middlesex County a bully-free community. Join us as we work together to make each and every community a positive place for change. For more information, call the Community Foundation of Middlesex County at 860-347-0025 or go to www.bullyfreemiddlesexcountycf.org.

START BY TAKING THE PLEDGE.

BullyFreeMiddlesexCountyCF.org

Did You Know?... continued from page 26

suffrage movement in the United States were gold, white, and violet, or “Give Women the Vote.” Red was the official color of the anti-suffrage movement.

Source: https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education/Programs/19th-amendment-centennial/fun-facts/history-woman-suffrage-movement-prior-to-ratification/

Alice Paul, of the National Women’s Party, designed a “ratification banner,” on which she sewed stars for each state that ratified the 19th Amendment. When she reached 36 stars, it was complete.

Source: https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education/Programs/19th-amendment-centennial/fun-facts/ratification/

Not all Connecticut women and men were in favor of women’s suffrage. By the early 1900s, the Connecticut Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage had local branches all across the state. Members of the organization thought voting put an unnecessary burden on women. Like many other states in America, Connecticut was split on the issue of women’s suffrage.

Source: <https://www.nps.gov/articles/connecticut-and-the-19th-amendment.htm>

In 1869, Frances Ellen Burr and Isabella Beecher Hooker (*the half-sister of Harriett Beecher Stowe*) established the Connecticut Woman Suffrage Association (CWSA).

This group advocated for women’s suffrage in local elections and eventually worked with national leaders to organize protests and demonstrations.

Source: <https://www.nps.gov/articles/connecticut-and-the-19th-amendment.htm>

Katharine Martha Houghton Hepburn (*mother of actress Katharine Hepburn*) co-founded the Hartford Equal Franchise League in 1913, a group that eventually numbered between 20,000-30,000 members. She later became President of the Connecticut Woman Suffrage Association, an affiliate of the NAWSA, actively speaking as a representative of women who were mothers as well as suffragists. In September 1917, inspired by the arrests of the White House pickets, she resigned from the Connecticut organization and joined the National Woman’s Party. By November

1917 she was on the NWP’s National Executive Committee, where she continued to make public appearances on behalf of the cause.

Source: <http://www.brynmawr.edu/library/exhibits/suffrage/hawsaAlums.html>

In 1918, Katharine Ludington (*who settled in Old Lyme, CT*) became the President of Connecticut Women’s Suffrage League. In 1919, the federal amendment that would grant women the right to vote was passed by Congress and sent to all the states for approval. Women wanted to vote in the 1920 presidential election and Ludington worked for the Connecticut legislature to approve the amendment because it needed 36 states to be officially ratified, and at this time only 35 had agreed. Ludington organized rallies, mobilized supporters, wrote letters, and tried to convince Connecticut’s Republican Governor Marcus Holcomb to call a special session to bring the suffrage amendment to a vote. Unfortunately, Holcomb refused and Tennessee ended up being the thirty-sixth state to approve the amendment.

Source: <https://votesforwomenct.com/ct-suffragettes/>

Building Community & Expanding Opportunities – One Grant at a Time



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Things is a simple formula: together we make a positive impact.

We also love sharing stories of what our donors make possible through CFMC grants. One such grant is providing new and exciting opportunities to the individuals of Brian House in Chester. A bit of background...

Brian House is a human service organization serving individuals living in 18 locations in the lower Middlesex County area. Each member of the Brian House community has an individual plan developed through an annual, collaborative, client centered process with recommendations and requests from the individual, case managers, program managers, and the family or guardian(s).

Imagine wanting to take a music class, or hoping to participate in

At the Community Foundation of Middlesex County (CFMC), we know that Helping Good People Do Great

art therapies, or enter Special Olympics activities, or even needing a specialized piece of equipment to aid you in your daily life. Yet the one hurdle you face is the financial support to take advantage of an opportunity. The Enhanced Wellness Fund ensures that everyone at Brian House is able to join in such activities which will add to their quality of life and personal wellness goals.

Brian House was recently awarded a CFMC grant to support the new Enhanced Wellness Fund. This special fund was established in celebration of Brian House’s 35th anniversary and, thanks to the generosity of individuals and businesses in the community, it will offer Brian House individuals opportunities to achieve their personal wellness goals.

Peggy Winkley, CEO and Founder, Brian House, stated “We are thrilled to be the recipient of a Community Foundation grant supporting our new Enhanced Wellness Fund. Thanks to CFMC, many of our individuals will have therapeutic and recreational opportunities that have previously been unavailable to them.”
continued on page 30



William Pitt

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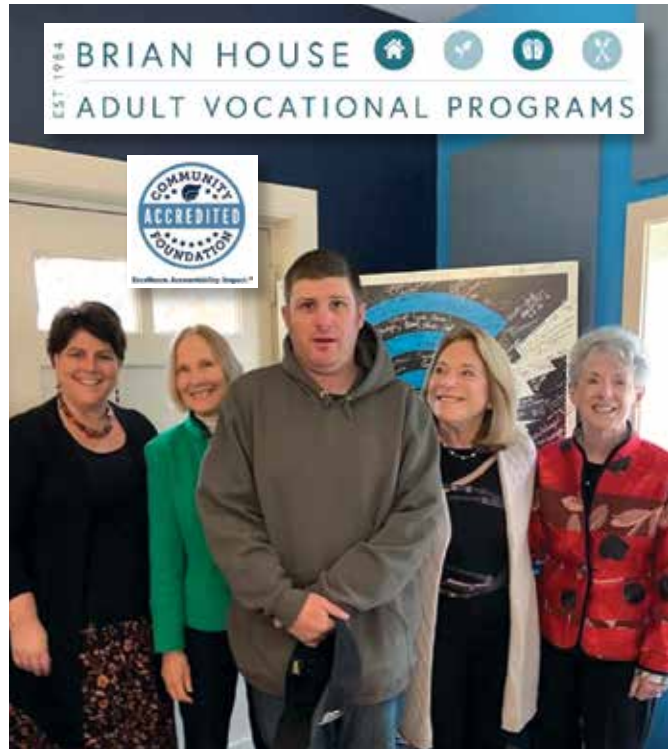
*Source: SmartMLS. *Closed Total Volume for Single Family Sales 1/1/19 - 12/31/19. While information is believed true, no guarantee is made for accuracy.

Building Community & Opportunities... continued from page 28

“CFMC’s phrase ‘Good people doing great things’ rings true time and time again,” stated Dawn Parker, Director of Business Development, Brian House. “The Enhanced Wellness Fund was created so that many people coming together would bring extra care and compassion to the individuals served at Brian House. The community has come together to make something great happen. That makes this truly a success. Having CFMC as a partner in this new program is very important to us and to our families.”

The Community Foundation knows that Philanthropy Matters and Philanthropy Works. We also know that your compassion and your commitment to support our local community truly make a collective, positive difference in the lives of our neighbors and families.

“Our mission at the Community Foundation is to help our community - our nonprofits, our donors, our businesses - understand the issues and needs right here in our backyard,” stated Cynthia Clegg, President & CEO, CFMC. “Our goal is to connect the dots and find ways to make an impact for the benefit of all in our region. We are so pleased to have the opportunity support Brian House and its mission to enhance the quality of life for the individuals they serve by providing safe, caring, compassionate, and supported housing and vocational support.”



Dawn Parker and Peggy Winkley, Brian House, (left) and Josh Webster and his mother Sally Mayer (center) joined Cynthia Clegg, CFMC, for CFMC’s radio show “Feel Good Friday” on iCRV to talk about Brian House and Josh’s experience as a participant in their services.

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The Community Foundation of Middlesex County is a community resource, working to enrich the quality of life for everyone today - and forever. We are committed to serving our community in three ways: with donors as partners for giving and a resource for information about local needs; with nonprofit organizations as a source of grants and technical assistance; and with the community at large as a force committed to helping our communities thrive over the long term.

The Community Foundation of Middlesex County works with the community for everything which makes our community a great place to live, work, and play. Our interests are your interests, including animal welfare, arts and culture, health and social services, education, history, the environment, civic improvements, recreation, and economic security and opportunity. To learn more, call us at: 860-347-0025 or visit us at: MiddlesexCountyCF.org.

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Captivating CT River views are enjoyed from "Mariner's Bluff". This c1905 renovated residence has been expanded to include a first floor Master Bedroom.

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Recently renovated first floor Master Suite and the addition of a Family Room make this the perfect house! 3252 SF, 3 BRs, 3.1 BAs, 3 FPs. Private setting yet close to Essex village.

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Meet Essex Ed with the Sailing Masters of 1812



Admirers wait all year to glimpse his latest costume.
Crowds follow him down the street wherever he goes.
People stand in line to have their picture taken with him.
Adults dress up like him, and **kids** want to be him.
He's the most interesting groundhog in the world.
He's Essex Ed. And he is Essex's most famous resident.



We can't be certain, but legend has it that when the ships in Essex harbor were attacked during the War of 1812 it was Essex Ed who saved the town from being burned by the British. (He would have saved the ships in the harbor too. But as fate would have it, Ed is really not much of a swimmer.)

And that is the reason Essex Ed never goes anywhere without his nautical friends the Sailing Masters of 1812. On Groundhog Day, Essex Ed will once again make his annual appearance, accompanied by the cheers and the ritual banging of pots and pans by his fans who are adorned in their finest groundhog hats. And he will of course be escorted up Main Street by the Sailing Masters of 1812 Fife and Drum Corps, who are always on hand to herald Ed's arrival.

As everyone knows, Essex Ed is a groundhog of few words. But he has whispered in our ears that he dearly wishes he could be part of the annual Essex "Wearing of the Green" parade in March. Ed looks fabulous in earth tones. He would love to join the procession of leprechauns, musicians, marchers, dancers, horses and antique cars as they make their way down Main Street. Everyone in Essex is a little bit Irish on that day, including the Sailing Masters, which will be once again be leading the way.

If there is fun to be had in Essex, there you will find the Sailing Masters of 1812. The Sailing Masters of 1812 is the fife and drum corps that is an Essex tradition. The men and women of the Corps are a part of living history, and proudly represent Essex, whether wearing our distinctive War of 1812 naval uniforms, or wearing groundhog hats on our heads.

Essex does not hibernate during the winter, and neither do the Sailing Masters. If you would like to really experience everything about Essex throughout the year, the Sailing Masters invite you to "Come Aboard!" No previous musical experience is required. Come celebrate Essex with us and discover a wonderful world of music and fun.

You can chose from fife, snare drum, bass drum, and color guard(carry a flag.) For more information please call Vicki Miorelli at: 860-212-1606 or email at captainvicki1812@gmail.com; or Joe Diedrich at: 203-901-0945 or email at: gatosn615@yahoo.com.

Play music my friends.

Connecticut River Museum News

WE HAD SUCH AN EXCITING 4TH QUARTER!

Producer, Director, and Writer Katie Gohde-Hasse, made our third production of Haunted River proceed without a hitch! More than 300 people were able to get to know some of the characters and legends that make the Connecticut River so full of folklore and mystery through our guided tours and interactive performances.

Our cheery guests enjoyed festive food and libations at our new event, Mistletoe & Martinis, on Thursday, December 12. The near sellout crowd spread holiday cheer by bidding on generously donated holiday wreaths as part of the Wreaths of the River Valley event.

Our 26th year of family fun with the Holiday Train Show exhibit runs through February 23, 2020. Train artist Steve Cryan has once more worked his magic with more trains, new scenery, and lots of surprises to be found in the fully



The 26th Annual Holiday Train Show runs through February 23, 2020.

operational 26-foot model train layout. Visitors are challenged with the "I SPY" scavenger hunts for objects hidden within the train layout and the entire third floor, while the very young can get hands-on at the expanded American Flyer and Lionel train layout designed for toddler size viewing. The exhibit is a true locomotive extravaganza and a perfect outing for train fans and all who are young at heart. Sponsored by Lorensen Auto Group and Webster Bank.

COMING UP:

This winter we look forward to:

- Speaker Series, Dr. Katherine Hermes - Ancient Burying Ground, February 5th
- Eagle Cruise Season, opening February 8th
- Mosaic Heart Family Craft, February 14th
- Privateer Bash on February 29th

More information may be found at: ctrivermuseum.org.



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Get Ready for Chili Fest!



Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 29, 2020 for the 24th Annual Old Saybrook Chili Fest, when Main Street will be lined with chili competitors vying for the highly coveted title of "Best Chili."

Chili Fest is a much-anticipated winter event, attracting 3,000+ visitors. The money raised from Chili Fest supports multiple charitable causes. The first is the C. Wilfred Hunter Memorial Scholarship, awarded by the Old Saybrook Chamber of Commerce to area students pursuing post-secondary education. Additionally, the top three winners earn a donation to their designated charity.

The Chili Fest competition is open to the community. Professional chefs as well as non-professionals compete for votes, with the public casting ballots for their favorite chili. In addition to the popular vote, a panel of independent judges will conduct a taste test and announce the "Judges Choice" Award. Applications and instructions for entering Chili Fest may be found on the Old Saybrook Chamber website, www.oldsaybrookchamber.com/chili-fest.

Tickets serve as a voting ballot. They may be purchased at ballot stations along Main Street and at the Chamber office at 1 Main Street the week preceding the event. Chili Fest is presented by Guilford Savings Bank and is held rain, snow, or shine along Main Street, Old Saybrook.

— Wishing You a Happy, Healthy & Prosperous 2020! —



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Human Trafficking – Our Problem to Solve

Publisher's Note:

Welcome to Part 3 and our final segment of this special series in Essex Events Magazines on human trafficking. Part 1 revealed that domestic minor human trafficking is a very real and troubling backyard issue for all of CT's cities and towns. In Part 2, we reviewed the danger our children face and the toll that human trafficking takes on young lives. Our final segment underscores that the problem will not go away until its roots are wiped out. Special thanks to **Madison Just**, a 2019 graduate of Valley Regional High School for her diligent work in researching this topic, conducting interviews, and drafting these reports. Many thanks also to **Chief Jeffrey Hutchinson and Lieutenant Timothy Bernier** of the Guilford Police Department and **State's Attorney Brian Sibley** for their open discussion about human trafficking and the ongoing efforts being made in Connecticut to confront the issue. We hope this series has been an eye-opener for readers, just as it has been for us in putting it together for you. If you missed Parts 1 and 2, they are available on our website (www.eventsmagazines.com.)

Child Sex Trafficking is Big Business

According to Yvette Young, Human Anti-Trafficking Response Team Coordinator for The Village of Families in partnership with CT Department of Children and Families (DCF), domestic minor sex trafficking is the second most profitable illegal crime in the world. On any night, 1.5 million buyers are exploiting children in the U.S. The trafficking spikes during major events, like the Super Bowl. "Any major event creates a situation where people think they can do what they want," explains Sibley, the lead state prosecutor for human trafficking investigations in CT. "People use it as their playground and then they go home." He notes that the Super Bowl has become a prime venue for sex trafficking. And prior to the 2019 Kentucky Derby, Kentucky Attorney General Andy Beshear called for heightened awareness of human trafficking in advance of the event, including warning of victims being brought in from other states. "The fact is, there is so much money in it," observes Sibley.

It is a matter of supply and demand. As Ms. Young states, stopping the demand side of the equation is a complex matter. Buyers tend to be married men with resources. "The reality is that professionals showed up in Guilford," she notes (referring to a sting operation conducted by the Guilford PD in January of 2018 that led to the arrests of five suspects.) "When we talk about buyers it could be anyone...lawyers, doctors." Unfortunately, the discussion often quickly turns to victim blaming. Arrest and prosecution numbers are low. "Collectively, we must get better at holding people accountable," she explains. Sibley agrees. "We must take everyone who is contributing to the supply and demand and hold them accountable."

How to help the children is equally as difficult. "When we take someone out of that situation, are we looked upon as their hero? No," says Sibley. "You are taking them away from where they had a place to sleep, security. So they go back. It also gets into issues of drugs and alcohol." Providing safe places for victims is essential and Sibley urges CT residents to let our politicians know that this is a problem and that they need to act.

The most important thing that we, as a community, can do to help is be informed. As Lieutenant Bernier of the Guilford PD states, "sometimes it is worth the risk of being intrusive parents."

Lieutenant Bernier
of the GPD.

What can we do?

Those close to the problem of child sex trafficking agree that awareness is critical. The most important thing that we, as a community, can do to help is be informed. As Lieutenant Bernier of the Guilford PD states, "sometimes it is worth the risk of being intrusive parents." Parents and guardians need to realize the secrecy of this crime. A child could be at risk of being trafficked right in the middle of his/her home. There are possible warning signs such as a child's change in behavior or a sudden element of secrecy in regard to who they are talking to online. It is even a good idea to check who your child

or loved one is friends with on social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram. While a majority of parents want to give their children freedom on the internet, it is still important to ensure that your child or loved one is safe.

"The educational part is the best weapon. Parents and guardians need to know what is going on with their kids," says Bernier. "They need to be a little more intrusive. There is so much information to make yourself aware of. You walk that line. You stop being a friend and start being a parent. The long term benefits outweigh the 20 minutes of them being mad."

There are certain best practices to be aware of (as noted by a

continued on page 36

Human Trafficking... continued from page 35

panel of experts during a session about human trafficking held at the Tolland Middle School in March of 2019): Know accounts and passwords, use safe (gender neutral) names, vet your child's friends list, carefully manage privacy settings, switch off geographical settings, be aware of mobile apps, and educate children about the dangers and risks.

There are things to look for (also noted by the Tolland panel) such as new clothes, electronics, excess amounts of cash, business cards and/or hotel keys, and even bruises. Most people hesitate to get involved, but as Sibley notes: "We need to join forces as a team effort as opposed to relying on individual efforts to spread

information... it is important to learn from each other because those being affected are human lives."

Organizations such as Love146 help educate children and parents as well as provide a safe place for survivors to recover. The organization also provides opportunities for survivors to tell their stories. Within the organization is Not A #Number, which is a curriculum designed to educate children and youth about how to protect themselves on the internet. There are also hotlines to make use of. The Human Trafficking Hotline (for sex trafficking of minors in CT) is 1-800-842-2288. The national hotline number is 888-373-7888.

Important tips for recognizing the signs of domestic minor sex trafficking

APPS TEENS ARE USING:

Calculator%
This app looks like a calculator but functions like a secret photo vault.

Hot or Not
Strangers rate your profile. Goal is to lead to a hook up.

Omegle
A free online chat website that promotes chatting anonymously to strangers.

Burn Book
Post anonymous rumors about people through audio messages, texts, and photos.

Yellow
This app is designed to allow teens to flirt with each other in a Tinder-like atmosphere.

Wishbone
An app that allows users to compare kids against each other and rate them on a scale.

Whisper
An anonymous app where the creators promote sharing secrets and meeting new people.

Kik
Messaging app. Kik has built in apps and web content that would be filtered on home computer.

Ask.fm
Ask an anonymous question and get an answer. This app has been linked to the most severe forms of cyberbullying.

Instagram
Many kids are now creating fake accounts to hide content from parents. Kids also like to text using Instagram.

SNEAKY TEEN TEXTING CODES

What your teen's texts *really* mean.

- LH6 = let's have sex
- KYS = kill yourself
- CD9 = code 9 . parents around
- 99 = parents are gone
- LMIRL = let's meet in real life
- MPFB = my personal f*** buddy
- ASL = age/sex/location
- KOTL = kiss on the lips
- HAK = hugs & kisses
- KPC = keeping parents clueless
- 1174 = meet at a party spot
- ADR = what's your address
- GYPO = get ya pants off
- CU46 = see you for sex
- WTTP = want to trade photos?
- GNOC = get naked on camera

Trim these items out for your own information.

Warning! Online Predator

A guide for discussion with your children.

Below are common tactics that are used by predators.

For more information see our 'Toolbox' Visit: www.Vets4ChildRescue.org
Veterans for Child Rescue, 501c3: End Trafficking Now

PREDATOR SAYS

WHAT IT MEANS

What are you doing right now?	Predator trying to see if you're alone or with others.
Let's go private.	Let's go private chat, messaging or phone call.
Do you like music? What do you like to do?	Helps predator know your vulnerabilities.
Can I help you become a model?	Making you feel "special" to get what they want.
Are you upset?	Trying to gain your trust, acting like they truly care.
Where do you live? What school do you go to?	Predator feels you trust them enough to ask.
Do what I say, or I will send the pics to family and friends.	Predators use fear to make you do what they want.
I love you.	Predator wants you to meet with him.

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Women's Suffrage 100 Years Later by Sigrid Kun

Honoring the Hard Fought Battle for Women's Voting Rights



The year 2020 marks 100 years since the passage of the 19th Amendment, which was ratified on August 18, 1920. The 19th Amendment reads as follows:

“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State on account of sex. Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.”

Two simple sentences, it seems. Today, it is unimaginable that this basic right would not exist for women. Yet, the 19th Amendment resulted from a long, incredible struggle for equality and it represents a true turning point in United States history. It is only fitting to take a moment to reflect on this centennial. This brief segment can only present a few historical snippets surrounding the fight and can only point out some of the organizations commemorating the centennial.

THE BEGINNINGS

The first women's rights convention was held in Seneca Falls, New York in 1848. It marked the beginnings of what would become a national movement for women's suffrage. The first National Woman's Rights Convention was held in 1850 in Worcester, MA. Other conventions followed. The Civil War (1861-1865) effectively halted the women's suffrage movement with activists focused on the abolition movement. While the movements for the abolition of slavery and women's rights, respectively, were often entangled, the constitutional amendments following the Civil War created rifts.

By 1869, there were two main groups advocating for women's suffrage. Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony formed the National Woman Suffrage Association (NWSA). Lucy Stone and others founded the American Woman Suffrage Association (AWSA). While each entity had the same ultimate goal of winning woman suffrage, their philosophies differed. The NWSA sought change through constitutional amendment while the AWSA focused on gaining rights via individual states.

There were also differences between the AWSA and NWSA when it came to the constitutional amendments following the Civil War. The NWSA opposed the 15th Amendment (the right of a U.S. citizen to vote not to be abridged by race, color or previous condition of servitude) due to the exclusion of women. The AWSA supported the amendment, believing that voting rights for women were not far away. The two organizations ultimately united in 1890 as the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA).

AN ARDUOUS STRUGGLE

Progress for the women's suffrage movement was painfully slow and rights were garnered state by state. Women achieved voting rights in Wyoming first in 1869. Colorado followed in 1893. In 1896, Utah and Idaho were added. Fifteen states granted women the right to vote prior to the adoption of the 19th Amendment.

The 19th Amendment itself languished for many decades. Drafted by Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton in 1848, the 19th Amendment was not introduced in Congress until 1878 (30 years after the Seneca Falls convention). It was not until 1919 - 41 years after the amendment's introduction and 71 years following Seneca Falls - that Congress submitted it to the states for ratification. The successful struggle capped heroic efforts by a multitude of women

- including pickets, petitions, marches, and speeches. The suffragists endured mockery, arrests, jail, and even forced feeding after hunger strikes.

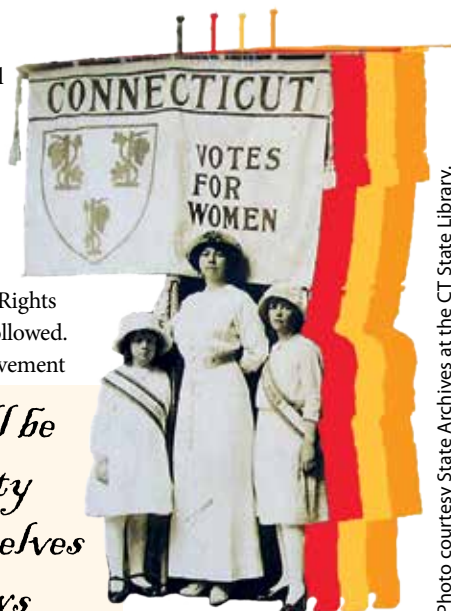


Photo courtesy State Archives at the CT State Library.

One of "Hartford's Mothers" Josephine Bennett.

“There never will be complete equality until women themselves help to make laws and elect lawmakers.”

Susan B. Anthony

CONNECTICUT'S CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Numerous events in 2020 around the country are celebrating the centennial of women's suffrage. Here in Connecticut, the Centennial Commission on Women's Suffrage (co-chaired by Secretary of State Denise Merrill, Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz and Connecticut's First Lady Annie Lamont) was launched to celebrate the 19th Amendment. Merrill calls the 19th Amendment “the largest expansion of democracy our nation has ever seen.” The Commission she adds “celebrates the women who made this victory possible, and take[s] a thoughtful look at the work that is left to be done.”

“The moment of achieving a woman's right to vote was a turning point for our country and for our world, that one of the most powerful nations on earth was sending a message that women have the right and responsibility to contribute to our government,” stated First Lady Lamont. “That moment opened the door for women to hold positions of power in government, education, healthcare, and of course, in business.”

Please see www.votesforwomenct.com for some of the Connecticut events commemorating the centennial of the 19th Amendment. The website also provides insightful biographies of some of Connecticut's women suffragists, including Josephine Bennett pictured above.

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